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The Sensitiveness of David B. Hill.

Mr. HILL's appeal to the State Bar Association for a decision as to the cleanliness of his professional relation with the Equitable is a most respectable proceeding. It leaves no ground for suspecting him of having dodged the Armstrong committee and Mr. HUGHES. His failure to appear before that committee was due to real physical disability from which he has only just now recovered. If the Armstrong committee were vet in session he would go before it now. Under the circumstances, he resorts promptly to the only competent and available tribunal.

There is manliness and there is dignity in Mr. HILL's voluntary statement to the Bar Association that the services rendered by him to the Equitable were wholly and strictly those of a lawyer, that his employment by the society was unsolicited by himself, and that he earned honorably and fairly every dollar paid to him during the period of his retention.

speak harshly of Mr. HILL, and we may and Jules FERRY. have occasion again for similar expressions. For the reason that THE SUN has regarded many of his political activities as pernicious in the extreme, discreditable to himself in the political sense and unfortunate for the party which has been handicapped by his leadership, we are the quicker to say that in our opinion it was hardly necessary for him to declare that he has always kept business

and politics apart We do not think the severest critics he has encountered during a long and vicissitudinous and somewhat devious political career have ever looked upon ex-Governor Hill as a grafter, a "business" politician, a trafficker in political influence, a perverter of political opportunity to personal gain. And to his honor be this said.

The Presidential Office in France.

When on January 17 the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, meeting in joint session at Versailles, elected M. CLÉMENT ARMAND FALLIÈRES to be President of the French Republic, they did but obey the mandate issued on the previous day by a caucus of all the Republican factions. The successful candidate, however, had not many votes to spare, and the fact that the supporters of his competitor, M. DOUMER, who presides over the Chamber of Deputies, numbered 370 as against 449. cess of M. FALLIÈRES, who is a somewhat LOUBET, is credited to M. CLÉMENCEAU. who is expected to become once more municipal districts. the power behind the throne, as he was for some years before the explosion of the Panama scandal, in which he, like M. ROUVIER, was involved.

The record of successive elections to the Presidential office bears witness to an instinctive reluctance to intrust the sonality. The fate of the Second French Republic, which perished at the hands of a President chosen by the people, was fresh in remembrance at the time when the Versailles Assembly, by which the constitution of 1875 was framed, decided that the President of the Republic should he designated not by a plebiscite but by the Legislature. For this provision they might have found a precedent in our own Articles of Confederation, but it is probable that they had in mind the existing constitution of Switzerland, under which the President is but one of seven executive councillors, who are chosen by the Federal Assembly, which itself is made up of the Council of States and the National Council, corresponding to our Senate and House of Representatives. The President of the Swiss Confederation, however, holds office but for a single year, and the constitution expressly provides that he shall not be elected President or Vice-President for the ensuing twelvemonth, whereas the President of the French Republic holds office for seven years and is eligible for reelection.

Republic, though he has been laughed at as a functionary who neither reigns nor governs, has powers which at a critical conjuncture and in the hands of a resolute and unscrupulous man might prove subversive of free institutions. It is true that all of his acts to be valid must be countersigned by a Minister, but he can select the Ministers, and inasmuch as the members of the Chamgreat parties, but split into many facthere is a wide range for the exerof discretion. He conceivably might fill a Cabinet with blind instruments of his will, who, if the Parliament were not in session, might execute a coup d'état. Even when the Parliament is sitting the powers of the Executive are theoretically considerable. Thus the President, though he has no veto, may require the Chambers to reconsider a bill. The right has never been used, but it very likely would be if a Cabinet which had passed a given bill should be succeeded by another hostile to the measure. Then, again, the President, with the consent, of the Spaate, can dissolve the Chamber.

seldom been used. It was exercised in 1877 by President MacMahon.

We should likewise note that in France

the President has power to make treaties, although those dealing with war and peace, with commerce, or imposing a burden on the national exchequer, or affecting the persons or property of French citizens in foreign countries, or changing the territory of France, require ratification by both Chambers. Yet, while the consent of the Chambers is constitutionally required for a declaration of war, the French Executive has managed to wage war without it in Tunis and Tonquin on one pretext or another. It is further to be borne in mind that under the French constitution a very wide field of secondary legislation is covered by the ordinances or "decrees" of the Executive. Finally, in France the Executive is less strictly held to the appropriations voted by the Chambers than he is in the United States. Certain chapters of the budget are annually designated to which additions can be made by a decree of the President, issued with the consent of the Council of Ministers, while in urgent and unforeseen cases arising when the Parliament is not in session the Executive has power not only to incur the expenses called for by the emergency but also to borrow the money which it considers itself to need. The notion, therefore, that Germany would gain anything by invading France during a recess of the latter's Legislature is a mistaken one.

Reflection upon the latent and elastic powers of the Executive under the constitution of 1875-powers perhaps intended by some of the framers to facilitate a transition from a republic to a monarchy-enables us to understand the preference exhibited by the Chambers when choosing a President for men like GRÉVY, SADI-CARNOT, FAURE, LOUBET We have had frequent occasion to and FALLIÈRES, instead of GAMBETTA

The Isle of Pines Treaty.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has the Isle of Pines treaty under consideration. It is reported that important changes will be made in the There is a disposition to strike out Article II. of the present instrument, which declares that the relinquishment of claim to title by the United States is in consideration of the grants of coaling and naval stations made by an earlier treaty. This is a commendable proposition. If the Isle of Pines is held to be Cuban territory, any American claim which may have been set up should be relinquished as a matter of right and not as the basis of a trade. The idea of a the relinquishment of a claim to territory upon the basis of a trade is untenable.

While the proposal to secure for American residents in the island certain rights and privileges as a condition of relinquishment does somewhat strain the situation, such an arrangement may be effected without serious difficulty. The island is now a part of the province of Havana and of the judicial district of Bejucal. If the island area be established as a distinct municipal district, the Cuban constitution provides for its showed that a considerable breach had administration in a manner which would been made in the so-called bloc, or coali- give its residents a large control of their tion, of Radicals and Socialists, which has own affairs. The constitution provides dominated the popular branch of the that municipal districts should be gov-French Legislature since M. WALDECK- erned by municipal councils and a Mayor ROUSSEAU became Premier. The suc- Council and Mayor are elected by direct vote of the people of the district. Municcolorless person of the type of President | ipal councils are empowered to decide all matters that relate exclusively to

Under the rules provided for municipal government in Cuba, the Pineros could regulate their own taxes and expenditures and select their own officials. They could run their schools, streets bridges and police as they saw fit. The laws would necessarily be those of Cuba; functions of Chief Magistrate to a man of but the Spanish codes are admittedly strong character and commanding per- a most meritorious system, and their proper application would leave little to be desired.

A treaty which would give effect to the terms and provisions of the Cuban constitution, with perhaps a few modifications, would give to the Americans resident in the Isle of Pines as large a measure of self-government as they would get at home.

The Grosvenor Gallery and Sociological Genre.

General CHARLES HENRY GROSVENOR is making a speech on the Philippine tariff bill. Turn away from the Dingley tariff, the Walker tariff and other great matters mentioned by the good Athenian. Homelier scenes invite. General Pike county, Mo., of quoting from a "disreputable" authority, "the poker table":

"Mr. CLARK-1 'raised' you. [Laughter.] Mr. GROSVENOR-He 'raised' us: I do not know what that means [renewed laughter]; but I will try to 'see' what there is in the proposition. [Renewed laughter.] The President of the Third French " Mr. WILSON-You will 'call ' him, will you?

If this dialogue hardly forces the reader to hold both his sides he is to rally interests national statesmen, and that it has enriched the bright lexicon of polities with "stand pat," "standpatter" and "standpattism." General provides pleasant jobs at fair pay to a GROSVENOR'S innocence is known. He believes that a jack pot is an ancient drinking vessel. Behold him How as ber of Deputies are not divided into two arbiter of a delicate question of taste and electioneering:

> " Mr. Longworth Would the gentleman send a box of the average Manila cigars to a constituent of his whose vote he wanted?

" Mr. GROSVENOR-I would: but I would do it in this way: I would say, first, 'My friend, I do not smoke; therefore I do not know anything about these. If these are not fit to smoke you can use them as curiosities.' In that way I might be tempted to do it, but I would not send a box to the | yearly to increase its foreign trade and its skilled gentleman, my colleague, whose good taste and accuracy of judgment in these matters are proverbial, who has addressed me just now.

" Mr. LITTLEFIELD-That is, if you wanted to maintain his friendship? "

Suppose some wag or Democratic scoundrel in General GROSVENOR'S district should send every voter therein a

worst and therewith a polite typewritten request to try these little brown brothers with the compliments of Yours Sincerely. C. H. GROSVENOR? A terrible means of influencing elections and beating the best man, even Mr. LITTLEFIELD himself.

From luxuries to necessities. Salt is on the table. The Hon. SERENO E. PAYNE remembers that when he was a boy on the farm his father always considered it necessary to have Turks Island salt to cure his meat with. "That is three-quarters of a century ago," says Mr. CLARK irreverently. Mr. PAYNE, who was born in 1813, confesses "to half n century." Mr. CLARK asserts that there is "not a country on God's earth that can compete with Kansas." Kansas, ever fresh and fair! "Well, Mr. Chairman, when I was a boy," General GROSVENOR begins. "That was about a century ago," cries the Missourian. "I remember," the Ohioan continues, "going with my father in an ox cart convevance ["ox cart conveyance" is good] nearly thirty miles to trade wheat for salt. That was in good old Democratic times." He might have added that in good new Republican times the farmer goes in an automobile conveyance and trades by telephone or telegraph. Which change, like every other improvement from antiseptic surgery to wireless telegraphy, is doubtless due entirely to high protective tariff. Still, the strong religious element in General GROSVENOR'S nature induces him to make a slight

Mr. Williams Does the gentleman admit that New England has been brought up by hand through Government ald?

Mr. GROSVENOR-Yes: under GoD and the Re iblican party. [Laughter.] Mr. WILLIAMS-Mr. Chairman, I want to recog nize the unusual magnanimity of the gentleman from Ohio-unusual for him-in naming God this once as the senior member of the firm." [Great

laughter.] But General GROSVENOR is never ant to make Cardinal Wolsey's mistake. He says: "By the grace of God, if you please, and of Mr. DINGLEY." From these little bursts of religious fervor he deviates into sarcasm:

" I am sorry for Massachusetts. - I wish I could do something to cheer her up. I want to know terms of the proposed convention, what kind of people they have down there. That is in New England, you know. I was born in New England, and I am proud of the fact.'

This is a strange method of consolation. As if New England hadn't trouble enough already without having General GROSVENOR fling his birth in her face. Massachusetts is not to blame, however. The General sprang into being in Pomfret. Conn. Mr. HENRY of that State tells him that "New England is proud of the gentleman." No doubt the gentleman's portrait appears in the town hiscession of American territory or even tory. Did he have to pay or was he on the free list? We must not wander into such curious inquiry, but record reverently this ornithological detail:

> "Why, Mr. Chairman, the very birds that sing in the trees of Boston Common attune their melodious voices to the refrain of the protective tariff."

> Evidently these birds are not roosting on the Massachusetts Republican platform: but the tariff as a song, a joyous carol: its schedules trilled and flourished: what a sweet Grosvenorian fancy!

A point in oratory. General GROSVE-NOR says:

I haven't any peroration. I don't make them." Curious, SULZER and COCKBAN don't make anything else.

Searching for Heroes.

So far the hunt for heroes eligible to receive the benefits of a great fund being put to it to make income meet scare up enough true blue, simon pure, Man and the World," page 127 dyed in the wool heroes to make an appreciable hole in their funds. Many yet produced was Capt. Eads, whose fame worldwide. This Indiana boy promising leads are followed, many newspaper heroes and heroines are chased to earth, but few indeed are those who meet the standard established by the regulations of the fund. One or two a year out of the great population in which the hunters seek those whom they may glorify! The majority of applicants stiding over the nighest of lawmaking bodies is a subject of general comment. There have been few. If any, Vice Presidents who worked at the job

business is not surprising. When the fund was established two years ago it was recognized that it would attract many impostors, and that the men and women whom its donor was anxious to reward would be the last to push themselves to the front. The medal craving, self-advertising "hero" is likely to show a shady record when his deeds are fully explained. The man or woman who accomplishes a really heroic act is not of the stuff that asks rewards from GROSVENOR is no General SCHENK, trustees of funds, or seeks recompense Nothing but Old Maid for him. He or recognition from any public or semiaccuses the Hon. BEAUCHAMP CLARK of public source. Rather, the persons sought for by the agents of this Pittsburg institution are of the class that shrink from publicity, depreciate their

own deeds and want them forgotten. The fact that no new awards were made at the second annual meeting of the Hero Fund Commission does not mean that no heroic deeds have been performed recently in the territory it covers. Like mean acts, heroic acts persist in about remember that the national game natu- the usual proportion, regardless of funds. medals, grants of money or the like. Nor should it be argued that the hero fund has failed entirely of its purpose. It number of persons in various capacities, and thus does good.

> German shipping companies know a thing or two. In addition to the subsidie which they get from the German Government for excending the national commerce they also help to develop the commerce of other countries and get subsidies for that work too. The latest turn of this kind is with Chile. The Chilean Government, having practically no merchant marine of its own is willing to devote several million marks coasting trade. The money is to be given in subsidies. Consequently, new combinations and organizations are at present

active in German shipping. The only difficulty about our doing the same kind of thing is that we haven't the ships to do it with. It is disheartening to patriotic Americans to see our next door business going into foreign hands for want of Deputies, although this power has box of Filipino eigars worse than the of ocean carrying vessels flying our flag.

NORTH OF ALASKA.

The largest unknown part of the Arctic at the present time is that which extends between the Parry Islands (the archipelago north of our continent) and the New Siberia Islands, north of Asia. No one knows what may be found in this wide expanse. The only lands that have been discovered are far southward toward the coast of Asia, where the Jeannette found a few small islands, all in shallow water. The drift of that vessel was in water that is only from 180 to 250 feet deep. In other words, the Jeannette's drift was not on

the deep sea but in shallow waters whose floer is known as the continental shelf. If this unknown sea sinks to depths of 9,000 to 12,000 feet, such as Nansen found during the drift of the Fram to the north of Asia, there is little probability of land rising from such depths. But wherever the coastal regions of America and Asia are low and flat, as in the tundra districts, the continental shelf, with shallow waters resting on it, here and there extends a long distance to the north and is likely to skill, like Alfred Russel Wallace and other be crowned with islands, like the Parry Isl- | exceedingly keen investigators who have New land will first be sought in the south along or near the edge of the continental shelf. Two very modest expeditions will enter that region this season. One of them is

already on the edge of it. THE SUN has referred to the little party headed by A. H. Harrison, which descended the Mackenzie River last summer and hopes next spring to reach Prince Patrick Island, and then to set out with a sledge over the sea ice to the west in the hope of discovering land to the north of Alaska in the area known as Beaufort Sea.

The leader of the second party is an enthusiastic young Dane named Einar Mikkelsen, who has seen Arctic service on the east coast of Greenland and in Franz Josef Land. He has secured the necessary funds from the Royal Geographical Society and a London publisher and intends also to enter the unknown expanse of Beaufort Sea. He expects to have four or five men in his party and to reach the west coast of

Banks Land this season.

Early in the spring of 1907 he plans to start westward over the sea with dog sledges and provisions for 130 days. He hopes to travel over the ice, a little north of west, more than 300 miles to the west of Banks Land and about 380 miles from the nearest coast of Alaska. If he should find land of much importance, his plan is to survey it only roughly, so as to learn its dimensions, and then return to the coast to fit out a more effective exploring party.

These are small expeditions, and perhaps they will be hampered by their weakness; but if there is any more Arctic land of considerable extent to be discovered it is likely to be found in this very region.

Spruce the Old Man Up!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the name of the great Jehovah and all that is noble in our country's annals, what are our city fathers occupied with in these piping s of peace that they haven't the leisure to clean up and put in presentable shape the statue of the grand old man in Printing House Square-Franklin?

I am prompted to ask the question, as this is the two hundredth anniversary of his birth and a time when his memory is being honored throughout the land by our brethren of the "art preservative of arts" and others. The appearance of the statue has long been an vesore to New Yorkers, and more especially so to us printers, who regard him as our patron saint. Situated in such a conspicuous centre of our busy town, and in the very heart of printerdom, it is enough to jar our typographical nerves to have to look on this pict-

ure twice daily.

I would be willing to contribute my mite to get new railings to put around it did I not know that Father Knickerbocker has money Will our worthy Mayor please sit up and take notice and make somebod; hustle about this thing? All that we ask for Benjamin Franklin is a "square deal

WILLIAM L. DOOLEY. NEW YORK, Jan. 17.

The Isthmian Shipway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Did you know that all this pother about the im portance of a ship canal to connect the two oceans is needless? Did you know there is established by a wealthy American has already in existence and, presumably, in have had nothing to say in a public way that proved very disappointing. Instead of operation, a means of transporting ships savored of braggadocie, or of attempts to from ocean to ocean that makes any canal outgo, the trustees find it impossible to useless? If you don't know, read this ex-tract from Senator Beveridge's "The Young I would suggest for the distingu

Undoubtedly the greatest engineer America has ed the lettles of the Mississippl, built the ship railroad across the Isthmus of Panama

ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN. WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.

A Calamny Refuted.

From the Indianapolis S Vice-President Fairbanks's punctuality in pr

"Few People Work Harder Than Fairbanks," it hundred to the winners. might not sound so well, but it would hew closer Fairbanks is in his big, leather cushloned of the Senate clock point to high noon every day. With the exception of a brief interval for lunch. he wields the gavel until the Senate adjourns, be that early or late. Other Vice Presidents have held their duties only nominal and have gone about

over the country having a good time while a President pro tem, held a line over obstreperous Tillman and bellicose Balley. Mr. Fairbanks is never careless in exercising the presiding function. He stands a great deal while presiding. His idea seems to be that it does not comport with the dignity of a great nation for the presiding officer of the Senate to pound the marble slab and announce decisions while in a sitting pos-Oceasionally he makes a mistake, as the bes of men will do, but he is not long in veering around to the right tack. Any new presiding officer is likely to make mistakes, and the Senate takes these few slips as a matter of course, as, for instance, the other day when the Vice-President forgot that a motion to go into executive session requires no vote and was insisting on putting the negative of

PITTBURG. Jan. 16—Pullman porters are disgruntled over the cutting off of passes. "No passes, no tips." Tips come from people riding free. The porters will ask for higher wages, as one of their chief sources of revenue has been removed.

There is war,

There is woe

On the P. R. R.

And the B. & O. For the porters protest -And it's no merry jest That the law is a ass Which of course Is the source Of quarters There is woe. There is war On the B. & O. And the P. R. F By the powers supernal. The Nine Gods of Wat Those passes infernal.

Those passes once more With recurrence diurnal. The core and the kernel Are they Of bother. And sons of the father Of lies. And the end, the last link

Of the chain, the last kin! in the tangle is not yet in sight. Politicians, theatr managers and porters have had their turn. Who will come next? T. NELSON.

PSYCHIC RESEARCH.

Dr. Funk's Opinion Thereon and His De

fence Against Messrs. Rinn and Davis. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It can be of very little advantage to your readers to learn what Mr. Rinn and Mr. Davis think of me as an investigator, or I of them; but it is in my judgment of profound importance that psychologists and other scientists trained to accurate observation and thinking persuaded to persistent and serious efforts to solve the real psychic problem.

There is no problem before the public that in it so great potentialities for good as has this one. When a man of clear, hard scientific sense, like Sir Oliver Lodge, after, much investigation is led to say as he did in Pall Mall Magazine, January, 1904.

Some of us have proofs that the individuality persists after death, which are as certain as proof can be. • • • The laborious documents of the Society for Psychical Research are there for all fraud and discredited much spiritualism, we have collected evidence of the possibility of communica-tion between this and other worlds which deserves consideration.

made much study of the tricks of conjurers, and have deeply studied psychology; like Richard Hodgson and James H. Hyslop, tell us that when they began their psychic investigations they were materialistic in their belief, but came out of their investigations conner, but came out of their investigations convinced of the continuity of human existence—then flippant assertion and mere poohpooling are out of place.

Mr. Rinn insists that I am no scientific investigator. On that he and I can shake hands; that is what I have been saying all along, and have been simply urging those who are qualified for this kind of work to take it up in earnest and push it to results. In "The Widow's Mite" two years ago I said:

I am not attempting to discover anything, but am attempting to state clearly a problem and to urge others, better qualified, to the discovery of its so lution "that I ciaim only these simple virtues, if virtues they be: (i) The humility of a man who knows he does not know, and (2) the willingness to state clearly the exact problem to be solved, content to leave its solution to the trained psychologists of the world, inside and outside of universities.

I presume it is scarcely necessary for me to deny the following from Mr. Rinn's letter in The Sun of January 15:

Dr. Funk frequently misstates facts, as shown by his denial in The Sun of February 25 that he had been to Chleago last winter and had pur chased spirit pictures from the Bang sisters, which we later proved to be true by documentary and by personal evidence of the Bang sisters.

personal evidence of the Bang sisters.

This was the mistake of a reporter. I never denied, directly or indirectly, any of the facts in the case, not one. On the contrary, before a word was said in the papers about this matter I showed the pictures to Mr. Davis, and told him just how, where and why I secured them, and asked him to help me to get at the correct explanation, believing him an expert in jugglery work. Then when the reporters got the affair mixed I corrected it, over my own name, in a card to the press. It is not necessary to redeny Mr. Rinn's extended assertion about the experiments made at a private house. I find that not one of the others present so misunderstood me.

Notwithstanding, Mr. Rinn grows merry over becoming as "a little child" in investigations. Let me once more quote Thomas fluxley, with special emphasis upon the words "every preconceived notion".

Sit down before a fact as a little child, be pre-

Sit down before a fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, foliow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads, or you shall learn nothing. "The Life and Letters of Huxley," by his son, Volume 1., page 235. And Goethe tells us that when he set about And Goethe tells us that when he set about to learn any new truth he first emptied himself of all knowledge, until he could feel as he felt when he began to learn his A B C. Humility is ever the entrance way to the temple of truth. But it is well to remember the profound distinction between being childlike and childish, and I think I for one effectively so remember.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.

On the Need of a School for Silenos.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: For twenty years I have studied in THE SUN the first day utterances of men appointed to im-portant public positions in New York city. New appointees are momentarily in the limelight on their induction into office, and the glamour of the situation seems to stimulate and set a-going their speech centre. How much better it would be for new officials remain silent while they are "learning the ones." getting "cues" on future lines of con-

instead of beginning at once to criticise heir predecessors, to outline their own to tell what they intend to do and shat they intend to leave undone, when as a natter of fact they have little or no knowlmay want to do, when they have no knowledge of the conditions under which they will

It is greatly to the credit of some Mayor's recent appointees that so far they outline future policies that could not be out-

I would suggest for the distinguished consideration of persons appointed to public office attendance at some school yet to be organized, where they can learn the rudients of silence for use at times when silence would be most becoming. PSYCHOLOGIST. SONYEA, N. Y., Jan. 17.

Law of Averages in Connecticut.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In nearly every saloon, barber shop and restaurant in Connecticut the proprietors have cheap gambling devices to catch the loose change of their patrons. These consist of a box which contains five wheels. on each of which eleven playing cards are placed This result of the effort to systematize and concentrate the hero glorifying business is not surprising. When the has no foundation in truth. If it were changed to so called five cent clears (costing about \$1.50 a

The prizes are figured thus: Two pair or three of a kind, one cigar; straight, two; flush, three; full house, five: straight flush, fifteen and royal flush, twenty five. As there are only fifty two cards in a deck, an additional ace, deuce and trey of different suits are added, but there is only one ce, deuce and trey on each wheel.

Presuming the wheels spin accurately, and leav-ing out the question of the quality of the cigars, can any card sharp figure out what the chances are f winning on the different showdowns?

I have seen two pairs and threes turn up several

times, never better; but almost every proprietor will tell of some man's marvellous luck, whose nam NEW LONDON, Jan. 17. WALTER W. CONCRLIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Assuming as we are bound to do in the absence of counter-valling evidence, that THE SUN correctly reported the occurrence and that Mr. Braunstein told the truth in relation to his property, we have the case of a gray haired Jewish clothing cutter, the father of five children, whose life savings, amounting \$500, are taxed to the probable amount of \$7.50 for

If the \$500 is in a savings bank it probably brings the owner an income of \$17.50 a year, out of which the great-city of New York pounces upon \$7.50. Is not the benefit of this \$7.50 to the city more than offset by the discouragement of industry and thrift? Could any trony be bitterer than the tion of a fund that will save the taxing power the expense of a pauper's grave? How much would this \$7.50 be reduced if the art of swearing off taxes

The tax laws of the State of New York are a disgrace to civilization. Their revision has led only to the facease of unjust burdens. Where is the Moses who will lead us up out of this land of economic darkness? GENTILE.

The Great Bear and the Breeches.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: To the disressed minds of the persons who have been agitated by the serious problem as to which of their loco-motive appendages should be first inserted into their trousers the following quotation may bring solace. Samuel Johnson said, referring to "Sir. It is no matter what you teach them first

any more than what leg you shall put into your breeches first. Sir. you may stand disputing which it is best to put in first, but in the meantime your breech is bare. Sir. while you are considering which of two things you should teach your child first another boy has learned them both. I think the weight of this authority should settle the breeches question beyond dispute. Incidentally the point which Dr. Johnson lilustrated in this homely way may well be considered by son our frenzied educators in the midst of their pedagogic handsprings. SANBORN G. TENNEY. WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Jan. 17.

THE RAILROADS OF THE WORLD.

This Country Ahead Both es to Mileage in Operation and Recent and Present Growth TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The United States leads the world both in the present mileage and recent growth of its ratiways, says the Department of Commerce and Labor through its Bureau of Statistics in a monograph just issued entitled "The

Transportation Routes and Systems of the The total rai way mileage of the world in 1904 was 534,000, mainly distributed as follows: United States 211.074 Argentina European Russia. 35.323 Mexico 32.967 | taly -- 28,102 | Brazil rance.. 7.007 India 26.950 Sweden. 24,129 Siberia, Manchuria Austria Hungary 32.63; and other flus-19.611 sian Asia. United Kingdom 7.322 Canada 15.530 Japau ..

1.173 By that schedule we see that the United States in 1904 had 21,367 miles more railway than had European Russia, Germany, France, India, Austria-Hungary, the United Kingdom and Canada combined. Or, to put it another way, the United States had 112,208 more miles of railway than all the other Anglo-Saxon countries of the world, namely United Kingdom, India, Canada, Africa (counting it all British), and Australia com-

The growth of the present railway system of the United States has been little short of marvellous. It was not until 1835 that it reached as much as 1,000 miles, being 1,008 miles in that year. Note the growth since then

9.021 | 1885

70,090 There are two very striking facts to note here. First, that in spite of the civil war 5,059 miles of railway were built during that unhappy period; second, that in the ten years following our railway mileage was doubled.

During the latest year for which statistics are available, says the monograph, the railways of the United States carried, as compared with 1882.

.437,000,000 1,300,000,000 720,000,000 Reckoning our population at eighty millions in 1904, it is as if every man, woman and child in the country made nine steam railway trips during the course of that year and also moved sixteen and a quarter pounds of freight

and also moved sixteen and a quarter pounds of freight.

The reduction since 1865 of railway freight rates in the United States is also remarkable, as illustrated by the fact that wheat by lake and rail has fallen from 29 cents to 5 cents; by railway only from 46 cents to 11 cents.

It will be noted that our railway mileage grew 6,254 miles between the summer of 1904 and the winter of 1905, and it is still growing, with no indication of its growth being checked for several years to come; on the contrary it bids fair to have a larger growth each succeeding year.

WALTER J. BALLARD,
SCHENECTADY, Jan. 18.

The British Claims in Santo Domingo

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is stated in a recent editorial of yours that the complainants in respect to the "arrangement" of March 28, 1905, with Santo Domingo, called by Mr. Morales a "modus vivendt," are the British shareholders in the Santo Domingo Improvement Company, whose interests, you say, were "presumably secured" by the award of the Gray-Carlisle-Galvan commission of arbitration under the protocol of agreement concluded January 31, 1903, which was signed by J. F. Sanchez. Dominican Minister of Foreign Affairs, and W. F. Powell, the American Charge

d'Affaires.
It would seem, therefore, that this "protocol," which was as a whole utterly invalid, because it was never ratified by the Senate of the United States, under the Constitution, undertook to espouse and protect the claims of the British shareholders in the Santo Domingo Improvement Company and that the "award" of the so-called commission constituted by that invalid protocol secured the interests of those foreign shareholders in that company claimants under the protection of the Uni

States against the Dominican Republic. It is impossible to understand upon what principle or precedent of international law or diplomatic action the Government of the United States would extend its national protection to British subjects in respect to any pecuniary claims that they might have, under the "improvement company" or otherwise, against the Government of Santo Domingo, and it would seem very doubtful, even if the "protocol" of January 31, 1903, were a valid agree ment between the United States and Santo Domingo for the purpose of the so-called "award" under it, whether these British complainants could be deemed to have acquired any rights by and under

and the rooment of these things them-The protocol would certainly seem to be in any selves. How can they have any conception of what they are going to do, or can do, or "improvement company" are concerned.

protocol was signed that any British subjects owned interests in the "claims" to which the protocal related and that it was not intended foreign interests in any claims against the Do- and eat it, drift along to another table and get a minican Republic should be secured by the award of the Gray-Carlisle-Galvan commission British subjects paid any part of the

expense of that commission or the compensation of the members of it does not seem to be known

The article to which this letter refers was intended to set forth a feature in the Dominican situation rather than to support any argument in regard to it. For that reason the word "presumably" was twice used comment reviewed the situation and noted its principal features. During the summer of 1902 a representa-

tive of the Santo Domingo Improvement Company and the Dominican Minister of Finance agreed upon a lump sum which should represent the proper and recognized claims of the company. They failed to agree upon the terms and manner of payment and upon other points of importance. The mater was submitted to the Department of State Washington and the American Charge d'Affaires was instructed to ask that at be made a subject of arbitration by a mixed commission. After discussion this proposal was accepted, and the protocol of an agreement, providing for the commission and prescribing its duties, was signed on January 31, 1903.

The commission met and the award was

made according to the terms of the protocol.

The commission was in effect and in fact a board of arbitration. Its decision was rendered on July 14, 1904, and the documents of the report were duly certified on August 11 by the Hon. John Hay as Secretary of State. has forgotten, catching a royal flush two or Our correspondent declares this proceeding ree times in succession "last week."

invalid because the protocol was not ratified. invalid because the protocol was not ratified by the Senate. We attempt no argument upon this point. We merely note the facts that the step was taken by the State Department, that the proceedings covered many months and that they were a matter of public knowledge, that action was taken under the award and that the United States Senate did not put its foot on either the proceedings or their results.

Presumably, the protocol did "espouse and protect the claims of the shareholders of the Santo Domingo Improvement Company," whether they were American or British. Whether it actually and lawfully did so is quite another matter, and we decline to essay the determination of such a question. Because of the fact that the complaint made comes not from the American shareholders but from the British creditors, who, as we said, "may hold that their claims have already been approved by international agreement," we noted that the "protest may be regarded as signifi-

Our comment merely called attention to one particular knot in a decidedly tangled situation. There is a little tightening of this knot in the fact that the protocol declares "Dominican Government shall pay to the Government of the United States the sum of \$4,500,000," and in the further fact that the award of the commission provides that collections are to be made by a "financial agent of the United States," acting, pre-sumably, in the interest of the shareholders of the said company, whatever their na lionality

Short Treatise on the Philosophy of Poker. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. Westerners who frequent the Waldorf long ago settled matter of averages in poker. They say: "If the card is there, it's there." Therefore they advise to 'stand all raises and call all bets."

> Inscription. .To write the football epitaph, And grace it, Upon the monument engrave

REAL ESTATE SPECULATION.

Warning From a Citizen Who Foresses a Dangerous Reaction.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! It is time for the public to call a halt on specula tion in real estate in this city. The condition of real estate in Manhattan show a verlarge advance in prices in the past three years, amounting to 50 to 100 per cent. in some ocalities. Taxes have increased, the cost building has increased from 20 to 30 per cent rents are up and everybody seems to want real estate. Most of the sales are with big loans, first, second and third mortgages Real property is now assessed at from 75 to s) per cent. of selling prices, hence the ground taxes are from \$150 per year upward, there being but little ground for sale at less than \$10,000 a lot (25x100 feet) in Manhattan, and buildings are assessed and pay taxes in the same proportion. Hence rents are necessarily high. These conditions could not be if labor was not in active demand at high

prices; but what will the finish be?

Wall Street can have stringent money may kets and money panies that act as a brake on their speculative booms, and the failure of one set of Wall Street gamblers only makes room for another lot; but a real estate pani means the loss of home and all the savings of a great many people. Are we in danger of a real estate panic? If so, what will cause it? Let us see. Prosperity, rise in wages, caused the boom, and the laborers are not satisfied and keep marking up the price of their services. The housesmiths, none o whom are mechanics or skilled machinists, are out on strike for an advance from \$4.50 to \$5 a day. If it costs more to build a house it will cost more rent to occupy it, hence it is reasonable to suppose that a general strike

it will cost more rent to occupy it, hence it is reasonable to suppose that a general strike of laborers at this time would cause a money panic that would cause a stoppage of money to loan and invest in real estate; the laborer being out of work would get in arrears of rent, the owner could not pay interest on mortgages, taxes, &c., and would be compelled to sell or surrender his property to the holder of the mortgage.

Why do the laborers go out on strike when they are receiving big pay? Perhaps it is because they read the newspapers whose glaring headlines inform them that Miss Tootsie Wootsie says that she is the illegitimate daughter of Mr. Gotrocks and is the rightful heir to \$99,000,000; that Mr. Johnny On-the-Spot made \$3,000,000 in firen minutes on Change, &c. When morey is seesay, can you blame him for saying: Why shall I pile up bricks at \$6 a day?

Is the end in sight, or are we on the right track? Shall we keep on advancing wages, raising rents and madly speculating? It certainly does make good times while it lasts, but how long will it last? There is an old saying: "Go it, go it, and may the devil take the lindmost." The devil seems to have his hooks on the foremost men in the present race. God help the innocent sufferers when we find where we are at.

New York, Jan. 17.

Three Hundred Letters and Egg Bread.

Three Hundred Letters and Egg Bread

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Having got me in more than a peck of trouble I think you will be kind enough to help get me out. In a rash moment I answered your question about where to get good, or as you put it, the "right kind" of meal. saying this little town could supply it and going on to brag in a foolish manner about "egg" or "batter bread. Well, sir, the letters that have rolled to on me since you published that chesty blow of mine are a caution. Nearly three hundred! All wanting anywhere from a peck to a bushel of meal, and a great many ask me for the recipe for egg or

Now, as I stated in my first letter, the mill that grinds the meal here can only grind about ten bushels a day, and the miller very often doesn't feel like grinding at all. So for me to send a hur dred or so bushels of the meal off at once is im special favor to grind two days, and I sent that to all parts of the country, but it didn't half go round. When the folks see this that wrote and didn't get any they'll understand. And now if you will le the add the recipe and publish it along with this I'll thank you sincerely and drop the cornmeal H. G. BERCKINRIDGE subtect.

FINCASTLE, Va., Jan. 12.

Egg bread for four to six persons-One-half pint meal, scald in hot water first, then put to a dish and pour enough boiling fresh milk in to thin to batter; add two well beaten eggs, a heaping table spoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of salt. Stir all spoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of salt. Stir all together thoroughly and cook in a deep dish until very brown on top. Then thank the Lord you are

In Speaker Cannon's Little Den.

Congressman C. F. Scott in the Iola Registe The routine is the same at each of the Houses in making a New Year's call on official Washington. You take off your coat and hat in the hall leave your card on a tray, go to the door of the parlor and give your name to a man who announces It to the "lady of the house," who shakes hands with you and passes you down the line to some tion to you. Then you lay your hand on man you know and go into the dining room, where you look over a table loaded with good things to cat, ask the waiter for what you want, sand around cup of coffee-if you are from Kansas-and in the course of ten or fifteen minutes from the time you entered, get your hat and coat and go on to the next place. And you must not fall to bring up in the end at the modest house of one Joseph G. Cannon, for in a little den of a back room you will find a little old man, comfortably curied up on the small of his back with a leg over the corner of the table. with a cigar in the corner of his mouth and a lot more on the table, and John Dalzell and Sereno E. Payne and half a dozen other old crontes filling

other chairs, saying things that it is good to hear. Shipsmith,on Religious Controversy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am a very poor scholar, but when I was an apprentice to my trade of shipsmith I did a job one day which took a long time to forge, and after I had it almost finished I found what we call a "cold shut" in it. did not want the boss to know it, so I "peoned it up as we used to call it, by hammering the edges i gether when black hot. But the boss go; wise to a because he noticed that I was doing a jot of useless hammering. He came over jo me and asked what I was doing, and I said there was a bad looking spot there that did no harm, and I wanted to cover it up so it could not be seen. "Well," said he. it is a 'cold shut' and I don't want that job to go o You just drop that and make another, and never

do that again as long as you work for m Now, that makes me think of all the arguments I have read in THE SUN on religion. It seems to me they must keep hammering the bad spots a the time, lest the world should see that the no good, but some day all their work will go to pleces, just as the job I was trying to tinker up but the boss was watching and I got caught; and so will all the tinkers of religion in due time

Musical Criticism in Massachusetts

From the West Rozbury News Mr. Benjamin L. Whelpley presided at the organ and he was in loving communion with his med from the moment he caressed its keys. Ex sions, now lofty, now subdued, exultant, penne pæans, Inilables, stalked majestically, walked w bowed head, galloped with mad abandon or rock themselves across our plane of hearing, and alway that subtle vibration that communicates liself the chords of our lumost heart and transports the mortal into the realm of immortality.

That sterling artist, Mr. Leon Van Vliet, was present with his 'cello and fairly enthratied his audience with his skilful manipulation wonderful instrument. Are there such thingglad wallings, sweet sorrow, good devils, san sin, the laughter of tears, then the 'cello medium of expression. In the hands of a masse like this the human cry of this instrument the cells of memory.

Customs and Life Savers

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Str. By what right did the Atlantic City life savers refuse to take of the passengers of the Cherokee the first her stranding? What rule or law or remakes a life saving captain subservient to th foolishness of our scheme of customs celle Was not a mythical line of duty read tather too literally, rather too recklessly?

A stranded vessel argues danger to the lives passengers on such a vessel, no matter hav fait the weather may be at the time; for who can for tell meteorological eventualities? Vide the vast NEW YORK, Jan. 16.

Shrinking Man. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Are the met

of this town descending to dwarfhood? (Parder the ghastly word; it obviates the use of a number of other words.) Let any one look at the men on the streets Let any one look at the men on the quescen 12 and 2 o'clock any day and d will appear quite apposite. NEW YORK, Jan. 18.

A Difference. Sultor-Is your sister Stella the oldest of the

Tommy-Nope; she was just born first.